

back, if you can; love him into shape, if it be possible; perhaps you shall have the greater reward in due time.

Church News

Holsingerisms. No. 32

I wish on this occasion, first of all, to call especial attention to several articles which appeared in the EVANGELIST some time ago. The first one is the moderator's address at the general conference of 1899. I have just given it the third reading which I believe is equivalent to its adoption. I am convinced that it would repay every minister of the Brethren church to carefully read it several times over. It is found in No. 40, Oct. 11, 1899.

The other article referred to will be found in No. 6, Feb. 8, present year, and is entitled "Our Destructive Plea," by G. W. Rench. It also has been adopted with all my heart.

It has been my desire for some time to give emphasis to those articles, and at each reading I renewed my determination to do so. Consciousness of my inability to do justice to the subject has been one cause of my detention. And even now I shall only attempt to invite special attention to said articles. Those who will refer to them and read them will receive my own views better expressed than I could do it myself, under the most favorable circumstances.

I would to God we had more Brethren ministers. We need *distinctive* preaching. Too many of our Brethren forget that a part of our church motto is: *The Whole Gospel*. That part is of equal importance with the other two. When it is carried out in preaching the preaching will be of the distinctive character, and peculiar to the gospel of Christ. I do not admire hobby riders, but I seldom get too much Gospel distinctiveness. Paul in Heb. 6: 1, 2, refers to six principles of the doctrine of Christ, namely: repentance, faith, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. These elements of the doctrine of Christ should receive the special attention of every pastor of the Brethren church at least once a year at every appointment in his charge.

I especially love to hear a good solid sermon on the subject of repentance during revival services. There is no subject better calculated to break up the great fountain of every sinner's true inwardness than that of repentance from dead works. That was the theme of Peter's discourse on the day of Pentecost, when "men were pricked to the heart" and "fear came upon every soul."

It is to be feared that too many of our Brethren ministers are afraid of the stigma of Tunkerism when they go to preach the peculiarities of the church. And of course all such can not preach upon such subjects with any degree of enthusiasm. It is a notorious fact that such creatures are as much ashamed of repentance as they are of immersion. And, why not? I would myself as

readily blush at being made to shed tears of repentance as being caught in the act of going into the water either to receive or to administer Christian baptism.

Since writing the above *we* have bought and paid for a church in the city of Washington. I say *we* have paid for it and that will intimate that I helped to pay for it and have an interest in the property, which is true. I am very thankful that the work has been completed, altho I do not approve of the method by which it was accomplished, and now, since it is all over, I feel it my privilege to present my objections. Church business should by all means be conducted on a sound financial basis. It seems to have been the practice of the Brethren church from the first to run into debt. Our first enterprise was Ashland College, in which we contracted an indebtedness of \$40,000, without one dollar wherewith to pay it. And from that day to the present we have been put upon our honor, and told, sometimes in very emphatic language, that we must pay or be lost.

The next step was to get conference to assume the debt, and then it was said that we had promised to pay for it, and therefore we are equally responsible. By pursuing the same course we might soon have churches in a number of cities, and I have been on the lookout for an announcement that a church has been purchased in Chicago, and an option taken on \$500 for 30 days, and that it must be paid or the Brethren church will be forever disgraced, by making a contract which they had not filled. I have thus far endeavored to do my part in keeping up the integrity of the church and may continue to do so for shame's sake, but Brethren, I would much prefer to make my donation thru a higher and holier and more honorable motive. I would prefer to give to the glory of God and the salvation of souls rather than to save the credit of a fallible institution. If it be said that that is the only way by which we can secure churches at large, then I reply: "We had as well not have any, for the church and all its property is built upon a sandy foundation and cannot bear the storms that must beat upon it by and by."

Let us proceed at once to establish a church building fund, and then contribute toward its promotion from conscientious conviction of right to the glory of God and for the salvation of man. Then when a church is needed at some point of interest and an opportunity is presented to purchase one at an advantage all we need to do will be to have the secretary draw a check on the treasurer and it will be paid without begging or threatening or fear.

Another point: Is it absolutely necessary to have a church of our own at every mission point? If it is then methods must have changed since the time of the apostles. The founder of the church had not whereon to lay his head and his disciples were sent out as sheep without a shepherd. I know it is more convenient and more pleasant and no doubt the work can be conducted more suc-

cessfully in a house of our own, but it appears to me that a grand and glorious work might be accomplished in the apostolic manner.

April was a grand good month for us at Lathrop. The first part of the month we had the Brethren Pacific Conference, which was an exceedingly enjoyable session, lasting from Thursday over Sunday, and we are still basking in the aftermath. In the last week of the month we had the County Convention of the W. C. T. U., which was also a very happy and inspiring occasion. Hence, we may say we have reached the climax of social enjoyment. Both occasions were as useful as they were enjoyable.

H. R. H.

April 28, 1900.

Johnstown, Pa.

Our semi-annual communion service was observed Sunday evening, April 22nd. Over two hundred communicants surrounded the table of the Lord, and the remaining pews of the church were all filled with interested friends. To the observer the scene was beautiful and impressive. The whole-hearted participation in spiritual hymns, the earnest interest beaming on the countenances of brethren and sisters, bespoke the deeper peace that flows into the souls of all who cheerfully follow in the Master's footsteps. It was a season of refreshing and spiritual up-lift to all present.

Since Brother Haskin's last report to the EVANGELIST five have been added to the church by baptism, five by letter and two by relation.

Sunday, April 8th was observed by special missionary services; about thirty seven dollars were raised for Home Missions and the Moxham brethren raised nearly enough to complete their quota to Home Missions for the current year.

The Moxham brethren are manifesting a very commendable zeal in the interest of the cause in that part of our city. They recently purchased a neat and commodious church building from the Methodists, which is centrally located and gives them many advantages and comforts not experienced by them heretofore; in consequence of which their Sunday School is growing nicely and their services are now largely attended.

Our pastor, Brother Haskins, who is always "about his Father's business," is unusually busy at this season, besides delivering three sermons each Sabbath and the regular weekday pastoral duties, he has the general oversight of the erection of the parsonage. If you want to call on him, unless it is raining, he will be found on the grounds for the new parsonage in his shirt sleeves, swinging a pick or shovel or assisting in handling stone for the wall. The work on the parsonage is progressing nicely. The river wall along the rear of the lot has been completed and the foundation walls of the building will be finished within a week.

The arch-enemy has visited the happy home of Brother and Sister Hammers and